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Item No.: WH #1

DIRECTOR: WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM

SUBJECT: THE MILITARY SITUATION IN CAMBODIA

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The see-saw fighting which has characterized the contest for control of Route 5 northwest of Kompong Chhuang is continuing.

The Communists retain a sufficiently large force in the area to interdict Route 5 almost at will for short periods of time, and they seem intent on disrupting the use of the Route 5 - Tonle Sap supply link with the rich-producing northwest.

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25X1 Cambodian army units will probably be able to clear the interdictions as they occur. This will make use of the road in this area a day-to-day proposition.

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CAMBODIA

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In the capital region, communist troops launched strong attacks against the government's new defense line in the upper Bassac corridor early in the week, but they were repulsed. Tactical air support has been a key factor in the fighting, and all government positions are holding. The extension of the government's perimeter in this area has limited the effectiveness of communist rocket attacks on the capital, but further communist counterattacks are likely.

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